

HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF  
MECHANIC FALLS

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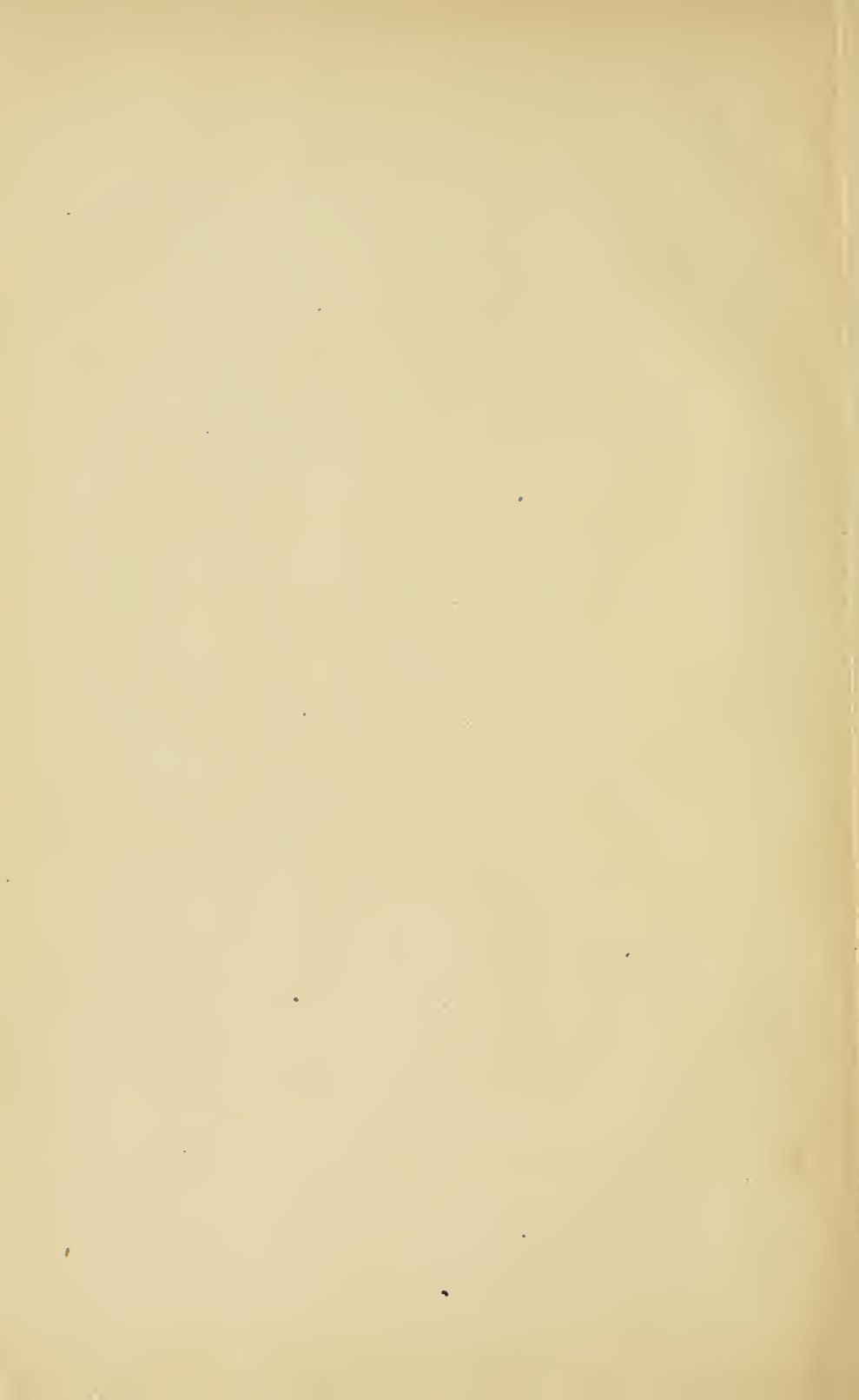
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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Charles E. Waterman.







# HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

## THE TOWN OF MECHANIC FALLS,

BY

CHARLES E. WATERMAN.



MECHANIC FALLS, MAINE,  
LEDGER PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
1894.

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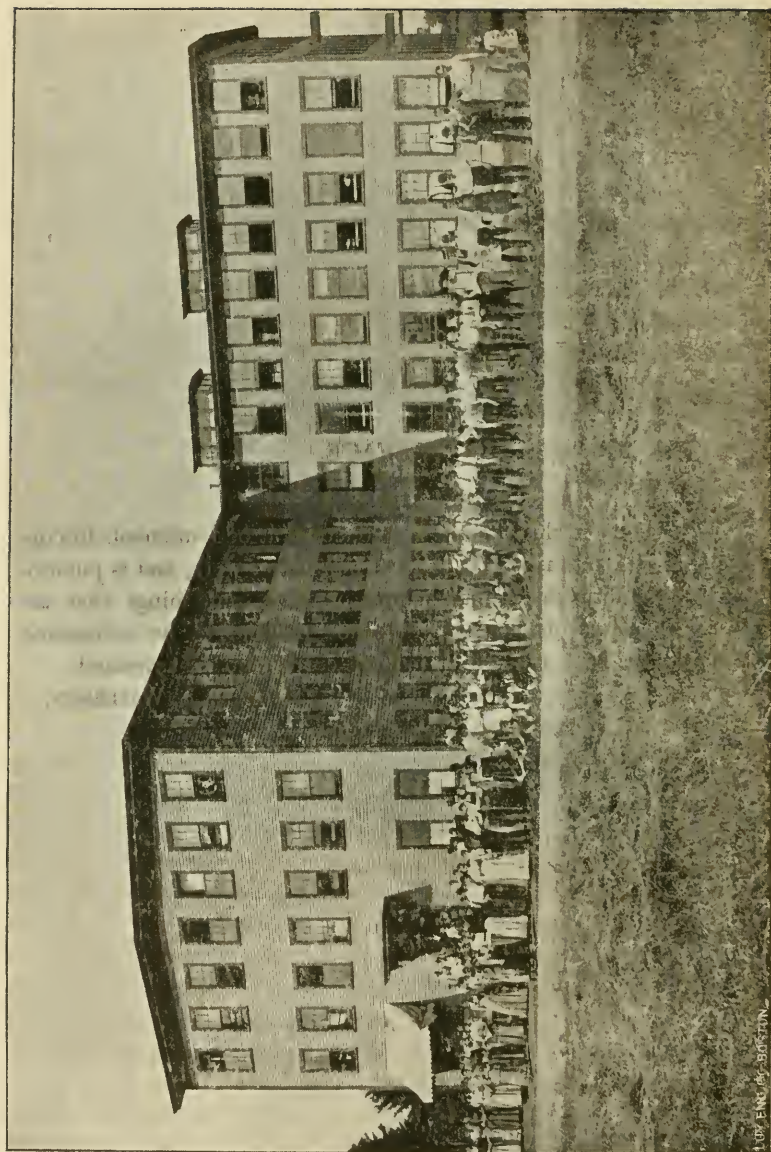
CHARLES E. WATERMAN.

## PREFACE.

The history in this volume was collected at odd moments in connection with and as an aid to local newspaper work, and is published in book form that it may help to preserve some things that are fast passing into oblivion. It does not pretend to be exhaustive, but care has been taken to it make it correct, so far as treated.

CHARLES E. WATERMAN.

Mechanic Falls, Maine, May 1, 1894.



LOW FINE 65 BOSTON

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## CHAPTER I.

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### INTRODUCTION.

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The State of Maine may have been the first section of the United States to be discovered by white men. At least it is quite certain the Northmen sailed along the coast before the year 1000 and that they continued to visit the New England shores at intervals, until the tenth century. Cabot on his second voyage, in 1498, the French expedition under Verrazano in 1524, the Spanish under Gomez in 1525, the English Rut in 1527 and the French priest, Andre Thevet, in 1556, each skirted the coast in turn but established no settlement.

The first attempt to settle upon the territory of Maine was made in 1604 by the French under Du Mont on Neutral Island in the St. Croix River. Du Mont had received a grant from the King of France, but the locality of his settlement proved unfavorable and was abandoned in 1605. In 1605 Weymouth visited the coast and his voyage led to the formation of a company the next year with Captain George Popham at its head and Captain Raleigh Gilbert as Admiral, for the colonization of Maine territory for which a charter had been granted by King James, extending from north latitude 34 to 44. They planted a colony at the mouth of the Kennebec River, but circumstances being unfavorable it was given up in 1607. In 1613 a French Jesuit mission was established on Mount Desert Island only to be driven off by the English. In

1616, Sir Fernando Gorges sent his agent Richard Vines along the coast, who wintered on the Saco River. About the same time a temporary colony of fishermen was established at Monhegan Island by the adventurer, Captain John Smith. In 1622 the Plymouth Company obtained a grant of the territory lying between the Merimac and Kennebec Rivers and in 1623 planted the first permanent settlement of Maine at the mouth of the Piscataqua River. From this time until 1675 English settlements along the coast west of the Penobscot River increased and prospered; east of the river the territory was occupied by the French. In 1675 all the settlements were devastated by the Indian war.

Among these settlements was that made by Thomas Purchas on the Androscoggin River at what is now Brunswick and who owned a large tract of land on both sides of the Androscoggin, known as the Pejepscot claim. This man was driven from his possessions by the Indian war of 1675 and, it is thought, never returned. He died in Lynn, Massachusetts, May 1, 1678. His will dated May 2, 1677, was probated June 4, 1678, by which he gave his wife one-third of his estate and the balance to his five children. Richard Wharton, an Englishman by birth and a merchant of Boston conceived the idea of establishing a manor after the plan of English gentlemen, and bought out the Purchas heirs, also the claims of the heirs of George Way of Dorchester, England, who had a grant of lands included within the Purchas territory, and all the lands bought by Purchas of Indian sagamores. Besides this he secured a deed signed by six Indian sagamores in 1685, conveying to him the land on both sides of the Androscoggin River, as far as the uppermost falls in said Androscoggin River by which is meant those now known as Lewiston Falls.

The territory north of the Pejepscot claim was incorporated as Bakerstown.

In 1735 "John Tyler, Joseph Pike and others, officers and soldiers in the expedition to Canada, Anno domini 1690, under the command of Captain John March, Captain Stephen Greenlief and Captain Phillip Nelson," petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts for two townships of land in consideration of their military services and their petition was granted February 3, 1736. One of



these lots was called Bakerstown in honor of Captain Thomas Baker, who in 1720 killed the sachem Waterumus on the bank of a small stream entering the Pemigewasset near Plymouth, still known as Baker's River. This township was laid out by Richard Hazzen, surveyor, "Westerly of Merrimac river and northerly of and adjoining to Contocook." Massachusetts at that time claimed the territory occupied by this grant, but in 1741 King George created the province of New Hampshire and in fixing the boundary between the two provinces, Bakerstown was included in the New Hampshire grant. This action made the Massachusetts title invalid. Before this separation, the proprietors petitioned his majesty, that the territory embraced in Bakerstown be allowed to remain in the province of Massachusetts Bay, but to no avail. In 1764 a petition for the relief of this lost township was made to the General Court and in 1765 they granted "a township of land in the Province of Maine to be laid out on the east side of the Saco River and to adjoin some former grants." The township was to be seven and one-half miles square, 8,600 acres being allowed for water. The location was not to interfere with the Pejepscot claim or the township of New Gloucester which had been previously incorporated. The first settler of Bakerstown was Nathaniel Bailey, or as some say, Daniel Bailey, and both settled at what is now known as East Poland. The limits of Bakerstown exceeded the original grant and were made to include the present towns of Poland, Minot, Auburn, and Mechanic Falls.

Although Pejepscot and the earlier settlements along the coast of Maine had been under a number of different governments, Bakerstown prior to the Revolution had always been under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts Bay. After the Revolution, Maine remained a part of Massachusetts until 1820, when she became a State by herself. The territory comprised in the original plantation of Bakerstown was first a part of Cumberland County but was incorporated as a part of Androscoggin County March 18, 1854, when it was formed.

## CHAPTER II.

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### THE VILLAGE AND TOWN OF MECHANIC FALLS.

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It was the village of Mechanic Falls that made the town of Mechanic Falls, and its territory was a part of ancient Bakerstown. The name of this plantation had been changed in 1795, when it was incorporated as the 93rd town and named Poland. There is a difference of opinion as to the origin of the name. Some say it was named after the famous Indian chief, Poland; some after the country in Europe and some after the ancient hymn-melody. In 1802 Poland was divided and the portion on the eastern side of the Little Androscoggin River was incorporated on February 18th, of that year as the 129th town and named Minot. This latter portion was sub-divided in 1852 and the town of Auburn formed, which has since become a city. The territory of the town of Danville which was annexed to Auburn February 26, 1867, had been set off from Poland territory in 1852.

That portion of Bakerstown now occupied by the town of Mechanic Falls was the last portion of its territory to be settled, and was made up of about equal portions of the towns of Poland and Minot. It was the water power of the Little Androscoggin that attracted settlers. This river is about forty miles long and the area of its basin is 280 square miles, discharging about 10,920,000,000 cubic feet of water. It is variable, according to the season, as to the quantity of water discharged and this inequality is adjusted by the use of the numerous ponds for storage purposes. There are two

falls in the river within the territory of Mechanic Falls, one at Pages Mills of fourteen feet fall within a distance of fifteen hundred feet with a volume of 17,000 cubic feet of water per minute, and one at the village proper of thirty-seven feet in a distance of nine hundred and fifty feet, with a volume of 20,000 cubic feet of water per minute and a velocity of current of ninety-six feet per minute. There are twenty-one ponds above the village with an area of twenty-eight square miles, all of which can be used for storage purposes.

It was as late as 1823, while the land was still covered with a heavy forest, that Isaiah and Luther Perkins with Captain James Farris of Hebron, erected a saw mill on what was then the Poland side of the river. This mill was soon burned and another was built, owned in part, in connection with the above named persons, by a Mr. Smith of Portland. This also was burned and another was built which stood until 1867, when it was taken down to be replaced by a paper mill. A small lumber mill was also erected on the Minot side by Aseph Churchill and a grist mill by Isaiah Perkins.

The first dwelling house was erected in 1828 by Dean Andrews, who worked in the mills, on what is now Pleasant Street near the site of the residence of O. B. Dwinal. The same year Isaiah Perkins erected a barn on what is now Main Street nearly opposite the Methodist church, and the following year a house near by, which are still standing, and the oldest buildings in the village. The first building on the Poland side was erected by Luther Perkins very nearly on the site of the Grand Trunk depot. The first store was erected by Isaiah Perkins on what is now Post Office Square near where Perry's Block recently stood.

The growth of the village was at first slow as but very few workmen were needed in the lumber mills of the early years. The first great impetus to growth was made by the establishment of the Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad, now the Grand Trunk, and its completion to this point in 1849, made a boom for the town. People flocked in and the village grew rapidly. The next year it passed on to South Paris and the bubble burst. It has been paper making that has been of permanent value to the village and made

it what it is. The first mill was built in 1851 by Ebenezer Drake and Ezra Mitchell. Mitchell's part was soon purchased by Oliver B. Dwinal and this firm carried on business until it was sold to A. C. Denison & Co. in 1865. In 1851, the last named company bought out Messrs. Perkins, Dunham, Moore and Waterhouse who had succeeded the original proprietors, on the Poland side and began the manufacture of paper, which has been continued with some changes of ownership until the present time.

Mechanic Falls is not a designed town. It happened by chance. For many years it had no name. Dr. Jacob Tewksbury, a famous physician half a century ago in Oxford, who was called to officiate at the birth of the first child born in Mechanic Falls (Isaiah Andrews, son of Dean Andrews, the first resident), called the place "Jericho" from his bitter experience on this trip occurring in the night and causing him to travel over rough logging roads for seven miles. It bore this name for some time. In early times, it is said, that it took a good deal of grog to run the place and for this reason, the name "Jericho" was succeeded by "Groggy Harbor;" but the popular name was "Bog Falls", which clung to it until 1841, when a post office was established and at the suggestion of the first postmaster, Samuel F. Waterman, it was called Mechanics' Falls, which was changed to Mechanic Falls in 1887 at the suggestion of postmaster Frank A. Millett.

The village being situated in two towns found that its interests could not be served as well as they ought to be and an effort was made in 1889 to have the two sides incorporated, that a better system of police and fire protection could be inaugurated and better schools established. Many were opposed to this. The legislature of 1889 granted a charter for this purpose with the provision that it must be accepted by a majority of the voters on both sides. This charter was defeated by the lack of six votes on the Poland side. On February 29, 1891, the Poland side was incorporated under a charter granted by the legislature that winter, when was inaugurated the plan of a village divided against itself. This did not meet with the satisfaction of the larger portion of the citizens and a petition was presented to the legislature of 1893 to set off the following defined portions of the towns of

Poland and Minot and form the town of Mechanic Falls. After a severe struggle this act was passed March, 22 1893. The town limits are as follows :

Beginning at a point in Gardiner brook (so called) on to Oxford town line where said brook enters the town of Minot ; thence following said Oxford town line to Winter brook (so called) in the town of Poland ; following the line of said brook to the road near Winter brook bridge, (so called) ; thence following the line of said road leading to Mechanic Falls to Cousins brook (so called) ; thence following the line of said Cousins brook (so called) to Waterhouse brook (so called) ; thence continuing from said Waterhouse brook to the lot line at the south-westerly corner of the Alanson Briggs place in Poland ; thence continuing on said lot line to the Little Androscoggin River ; thence up the line of said river to a point where Bog brook (so called) enters the same ; thence up said Bog brook to Gardiner brook (so called) ; thence up the line of said Gardiner brook to the point of beginning on Oxford line.

## CHAPTER III.

## INDUSTRIAL AND MERCANTILE HISTORY.

It was the waterpower of the Little Androscoggin which occasioned the settlement of the land on the present site of the village of Mechanic Falls and has been the sole source of its growth and prosperity, therefore the industrial and mercantile pursuits of the place deserve a chapter by themselves. To present things in their natural order, the manufactures which have been promoted by the falls would come first.

The natural industries of the State of Maine have been the turning of the products of her forests into merchandise and therefore the pioneer industry of every town, almost without exception, has been lumbering. To this rule Mechanic Falls was no exception. The first industry was a lumber mill which was situated on, what is now known, as the upper dam. Boards, shingles, and boxes were turned out here and the mill operated by Isaiah Perkins, Luther Perkins and James Farris. In the box mill a Mr. Smith of Portland owned a share. This was built as has already been stated, in 1823. This business continued with some changes until 1851. Messrs. Moore, Dunham and Waterhouse had bought into the water power and introduced small woollen manufactures of their own. Shortly after the building of the first saw mill, a grist mill was erected by Isaiah Perkins which for many years, did a large business for the times.

In 1851, the character of the business changed, in the line of

natural resource, although unwittingly at the time, to the manufacture of paper. At that time rags were almost exclusively used for this purpose and no one dreamed of the possibilities held in our forests, in the way of pulp. The first paper mill was built by Ebenezer Drake and Ezra Mitchell on the eastern side of the river, in 1851. Oliver B. Dwinal and W. C. Dwinal soon bought out Mitchell's share and this firm was known as Drake, Dwinal & Co., who continued in this business until 1865, when they sold out to A. C. Denison & Co., who had already established a business of the same kind on the opposite side of the river.

A. C. Denison & Co., built their first mill, known as the Eagle, in 1851, having bought out one-half of the power at the upper dam. The firm consisted of Adna C. Denison and E. W. Filer. This mill with machinery cost \$45,000 and made from rag stock, a ton of paper every twenty-four hours. In 1862 Adna T. Denison bought out Filer's interests and machinery to prepare and use straw was introduced at considerable expense. In 1865 the land below the upper mills was bought, the second dam built and the Star mill completed. In 1865, also a new mill was built on the site of the old Drake & Dwinal mill. In 1866, the lower dam and Poland Pulp mill were built, also the stone dam and flumes on the upper privilege. About the same time the mills and privilege at Range Pond were purchased with rights of flowage and a stone reservoir dam built. At the next legislature a charter was obtained to control the water. The Calendar mill on the upper dam was built also at this time, as well as machine and carpenter shops. In 1873 The Denison Paper Manufacturing Company was formed with a capital stock of \$500,000. Adna C. Adna T., and Mrs. C. M. Cram, stockholders. In 1879 and 1880 a chemical pulp mill was built at Canton to supply the mills at Mechanic Falls with pulp. In 1887 these extensive works passed into the hands of a new company known as the Poland Paper Company, with a capital stock of \$300,000. The officers of this company were: President, Arthur Sewall, Bath; Chas. R. Milliken, clerk and treasurer, Portland; directors, Arthur Sewall, James Munroe, George C. Wing, W. S. Dana, W. G. Davis, W. H. Milliken, Frank D. True; superintendent, C. H. Milliken. At the time they acquired this



property it employed 175 hands, used twenty tons of pulp daily and its monthly shipment of manufactured goods amounted to \$50,000. In 1891 a spur track was laid from the Grand Trunk Railway line, one-half mile below the depot to the mills. The same year the carpenter and machine shops of the company were burned, which were rebuilt with brick the following year. In 1893 a gigantic brick mill was built extending from the Poland Pulp mill, which forms a part of the new mill on the lower dam to the Eagle on the upper dam with a capacity of thirty tons of manufactured paper per day. The Star mill which had stood in the center of the new mill was torn down and a stone wall built the entire way changing the course of the river and turning quite a portion of river bottom into dry land and covered in part by the site of the new mill. At the annual meeting of the Company in January 1894, the following officers were elected: W. G. Davis, president; C. R. Milliken, treasurer; C. H. Milliken, clerk; William G. Davis, James Munroe, George C. Wing, W. S. Dana, W. F. Milliken, F. D. True, C. H. Milliken, directors.

One mile above the village and within the limits of the town, is another privilege, which for many years was owned and used as a saw mill by Moses Page. In 1868, this privilege was bought by J. A. Bucknam, who improved the lumber and grist mills and operated them for fifteen years. Since that time the privilege has been unused.

For many years John Winslow run a tannery on ground now occupied as a part of the site of the Diamond paper mill. Along in the seventies Mr. Winslow failed and the property passed into the hands of Warren Winslow, who operated it a few years when it was sold to A. C. Denison & Co.

Cabinet making has been carried on in the town since 1841 by Lowell Valentine, Nelson Valentine, R. L. McPherson, William Eldridge, D. S. Perkins, D. B. Perry and J. S. Merrill. In 1878, Andrew J. Weston began as contractor and builder and has continued ever since.

Brick making has been a prominent business ever since 1865. For many years there was a yard on Main Street near its junction with Dwinal, but it has not been operated for twenty years.



Fessenden & Morrill operated one for many years on the Poland road. This was sold in the seventies to Thurston & Waterhouse who operated it until 1880 when it was discontinued. In 1893 a new yard was opened on Water Street by the Mechanic Falls Brick Company, consisting of Horace Purington & Co., of Waterville, and F. O. Purington, of Mechanic Falls.

In the early seventies, the shoe manufacturies of Massachusetts began to feel the power of combined labor and to desire to get away from those centers which made this power possible; so they made overtures to small country villages to erect them factories and thereby increase their size and importance. Mechanic Falls took advantage of one of these opportunities and built the factory on Main Street near the Grand Trunk Railway for Berry, Field & Company. But the village was unfortunate in this company, as it has been in every one since that time. It soon failed. The Ventilating Waterproof Company took its place to stay but a short time. Then came Thompson & Company to follow in the path of the others. The old factory then passed into the hands of J. A. Bucknam & Company, and has since been used as a ready made clothing factory. In 1881 J. Harris & Sons of Marblehead, Massachusetts, made a proposition to the village to build them a factory which they would lease for ten years, and carry on therein the manufacture of shoes. This the village concluded to do and organized the Mechanic Falls Manufacturing Company for the purpose of building the proposed building. O. B. Dwinal was elected president, which position he filled until 1892, with the exception of one year when C. E. Stevens filled the chair, when F. H. McDonald was elected. P. R. Cobb has been secretary since its formation. The proposed factory was built at a cost of \$15,000, and occupied by the lessees. They stayed for the stipulated time when they concluded to return to their factories in Marblehead. Labor had become organized in the small towns the same as in cities and it was no advantage for companies to remain so far from the base of operations and many a Maine town suffered from the loss of this industry.

In 1871 the village embarked in an industry from which it hoped to reap great profits. This was the manufacture of magazine rifles, invented by George F. Evans. The Evans Rifle Com-

pany was organized for this purpose. The majority of this stock was owned by the Denison Paper Company. This arm was adopted by the Russian government, but the expense of equipping the shop to make the guns was so great that it failed both companies and the plant was moved to Massachusetts in 1878.

The Packing Business was inaugurated here in 1873, by J. W. Jones. In 1886 it passed into the hands of General Charles P. Mattocks, and in 1890, into those of John Hanscom and in 1891 it was leased to the Portland Packing Company. In 1888 a new company was formed in the village, known as the Minot Packing Company, formed by H. E. Thurston, and J. A. Gerry, of Mechanic Falls and H. F. Hayford and J. W. Bicknell of Canton. In 1890 Hayford and Bicknell sold their interests to the former patrons. They built a factory at West Minot and in 1893 another at Sumner.

The manufacture of clothing has been carried on in this village for many years by J. A. Bucknam & Co. Dwinal & Golderman, Joseph Bucknam & Son, Goldermann & Cummings, P. T. Murray and W. B. Bucknam. The former company have carried it on to a large extent and have at times, given employment to as many as one thousand persons.

Toothpicks have been manufactured in town by E. E. Edgecomb and E. A. Harris.

Pumps were manufactured at one time by T. B. Swan and J. C. Walker.

Confectionery has been manufactured in town since 1884 by M. N. Royal & Co.

Dirigo Laundry was established in 1884 and in 1885 it came into the possession of D. B. Morse, who was succeeded by J. P. Chaffin, and in 1890 by F. H. McDonald.

In 1872 the machine shop and foundry of J. W. Penney was established and has grown from a small beginning to large proportions. In 1884 A. R. and S. R. Penney were admitted to the firm and the name changed to J. W. Penney & Sons.

Among the industries, which, while not directly located in the village, have been a source of prosperity is the railroads. The Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad was organized and a charter ob-

tained February 10, 1845. It reached Mechanic Falls in 1849, bringing a boom to the place. It continued on to Montreal and in later years to Chicago, with a branch to Quebec.

On June 22, 1847, a road running from Mechanic Falls to Buckfield was chartered and opened on October 10, 1849, known as the Buckfield Branch. This soon failed and was succeeded by the Portland & Oxford Central Railroad Company, who operated it off and on for twenty years, extending it to Canton. They finally abandoned it. In 1874 it was resurrected by the Rumford Falls & Buckfield Railroad Company. In 1892 it was extended to Rumford Falls and in 1893, to Auburn, and opened to traffic to the latter place on February 12, 1894.

The first merchant in town was Isaiah Perkins, who opened a general store soon after the erection of his mill in 1823. Albert Valentine moved from Westbrook to this town in 1833 and opened a store near the depot. In 1840 Mr. Valentine was joined in trade by William Cobb of Hebron, which firm continued until 1849. Captain Jacob Dwinal opened a store here in 1836. Isaac Dwinal came from Hebron in 1836 and opened a store. He was succeeded by his son Alexander. O. B. & W. C. Dwinal succeeded their father Jacob, and after the war by F. E. Dwinal and A. Goldermann. I. D. Cushman opened the railroad store in 1860. He was succeeded in turn by Frank Danforth, Pulsifer & Lane, Pulsifer & Waterhouse, Thurston & Waterhouse, D. B. Waterhouse and S. S. Waterhouse. In 1847 the store of Joseph Hall and Ezra Mitchell was sold to the firm of Joseph and Josiah A. Bucknam, a West Minot firm. In 1852 Joseph sold out to his brother. In 1862 the firm became Bucknam & Cobb by admitting Francis H. Cobb as a partner. In 1864 L. H. Jones became a partner. In 1869 Mr. Cobb retired and the firm was reorganized by admitting C. H. Dwinal, Joseph and W. B. Bucknam, and the firm became J. A. Bucknam & Co. In 1870 Joseph Bucknam died and E. A. Gammon bought out Mr. Jones' share. In 1879 Messrs. Dwinal and W. B. Bucknam sold their interests. Mr. Dwinal in connection with his brother founded the firm of O. B. & C. H. Dwinal in that year, which continued until October 17, 1893, when C. H. Dwinal died, and his sons, F. E. & W. C.

Dwinal bought out O. B. Dwinal's share and succeeded to the business. January 30, 1894, Mr. E. A. Gimmon purchased J. A. Bucknam's share in the firm of J. A. Bucknam & Co., and continued under the old name.

For quite a number of years the firm of Mark and J. D. Curtis occupied a store on Main Street. After the death of Mark Curtis J. D. Curtis continued alone until the admission of his son-in-law L. A. Moulton, who formerly had been in the fancy goods business in Orono, Lewiston and this place under firm name of L. A. Moulton & Co. O. W. Hawkes, and Hawkes & Whitney have carried on the hardware business here for many years and later Ellsworth & Bucknam. F. A. Goldermann is shoe dealer. I. A. Denison, W. A. Tobie, F. H. McDonald, & Co., J. B. Perry & Co., Merrill Bros., F. A. Millett, D. B. Holt, G. G. Bridgham, D. N. McCann & Co., I. F. McCann & Co., J. A. Maggoon, A. G. Tinkham, C. D. T. Crockett, George Dwinal, H. N. Nelson, F. Andrews, E. A. Hall, Hall & Frost, Hall & Lunt, S. T. Rowe and many others whose names I cannot obtain, have carried on the grocery business in town. Milton Robinson, Jason Hall, J. C. Walker, T. C. Holt, T. C. Turner, E. A. Thomas, M. N. Porter and Merrill & Denning the apothecary business. John Owen, E. F. Stevens, a Mr. Partridge, Colby Rawson, George I. Folsom, and H. M. Mayberry have carried on the harness business. The firms engaged in cabinet business have done a general house furnishing business and in addition to these I would mention G. C. Bonney. Z. Lane has been engaged for many years in the jewelry business. A. W. Anthoine, William Richards, and E. C. Barnard have also been engaged in the same business. There have been many millinery stores in town, but I am unable to gather any statistics regarding them. Mrs. M. H. T. Merrill, with her sisters in former years, has been engaged in the business for two decades, and besides her, has been Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. McAllister, Mrs. Bowker, and others. A. G. Woolsum has for some years been engaged in the clothing business and C. O. Cole, A. A. Shorey and A. W. Bridge, in the confectionery business. There are many names of which I have been unable to find any statistics.

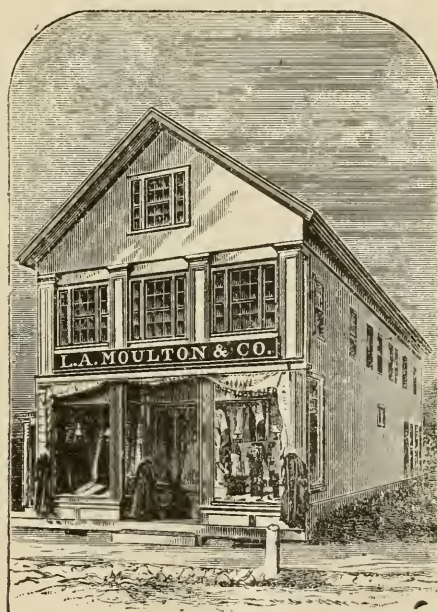
The first hotel was built in 1836 by Isaac Dwinal. William

Cobb for many years run what was known as the Union House where P. R. Cobb now keeps Cobb's Hotel. In 1859 A. C. Denison built the Eagle Hotel which name has since been changed to The Elms and later to Hotel Elmwood.

A Savings Bank was founded in town along in the sixties, but never went into operation. A Loan and Building Association was organized September 25, 1890, with D. B. Perry, president; F. H. McDonald, treasurer and J. H. DeCoster, secretary, and later H. E. Thurston, president; J. H. DeCoster, treasurer; and A. A. Woodsum, secretary.

D. B. Perry, C. S. Gurney, E. M. Thurston, and O. C. Bridge have been photographers.

Dentists, Dr. Childs, J. W. Curtis, N. Gammon, N. T. Marshall, A. W. Butler, and W. H. Spear.



L. A. MOULTON & COMPANY'S STORE.

## CHAPTER IV.

### PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

Close after the industrial life of the village and town comes the professional life. The first need of this kind in any community is the physician. Statistics in regard to professions are more scanty than in the industrial life, and this record can be scarcely more than a list of names.

The first settled physician of Mechanic Falls was Josiah Carr, who not only practiced here for forty years, but was one of the first citizens of the village. Doctors D. W. Sawyer, C. L. Holt, J. M. Eveleth, H. L. Torrey, E. F. Bradford, A. L. Gaubert, J. D. Holt, Albion Cobb, C. M. Cobb and C. H. Tobie, of the allopathic school have practiced here ; homeopathic, Henry Waters, William Waters, E. C. Heath and A. D. Bowman.

The names of the legal profession are not so numerous as those of the physicians and are as follows : Robert Carr, Wm. H. McLellan, David Dunn, T. B. Swan, C. F. Whitman, C. L. Warren, Elliot King, J. M. Libby, I. W. Hanson, J. A. Roberts, William Green, and F. O. Purington.

The newspaper life of a village is always interesting and Mechanic Falls has witnessed many attempts to establish one within the narrow limits which its situation assigns to journalism.

The Down Easter, published by William Cady was the first paper of the village—a small sheet whose life was short. The



Androscoggin Herald was started in 1867 by William Moody and John F. Moody. This continued several years and during this time the senior proprietor became sole owner. He removed the plant to Skowhegan. William Moody has been connected with the Somerset Reporter, The Woman's Journal and Boston Herald, and his brother John has been the successful principal of and Hebron, Bridgton Academies and the Edward Little Institute. After an interval in which no paper was published the Herald was resurrected by William H. Clark & Son, and published several years, when it was removed to Auburn where it died.

Shortly after the removal of the Herald, the Citizen was established by Charles S. Allen and Charles Moore. After a year or so, Moore sold out to Allen, who run it several years when he sold out to Thurston & Garland. In a year or two the senior partner, Mr. H. E. Thurston, sold his share to the junior partner and his father, who continued until 1882, when the paper was discontinued. In 1884 The Mechanic Falls Ledger was established by H. A. Poole and F. L. Davis. Davis soon sold out to Poole and shortly after G. W. Poole was admitted to the firm, under the name of Poole Brothers. They run in connection with the Ledger, a large book and job printing establishment. This firm failed in 1892 and the Ledger was discontinued in March of that year. The plant of this company was purchased in June of the same year by Charles E. Waterman, F. H. McDonald and F. L. Perkins, who re-established the Ledger on the first of July, 1892.

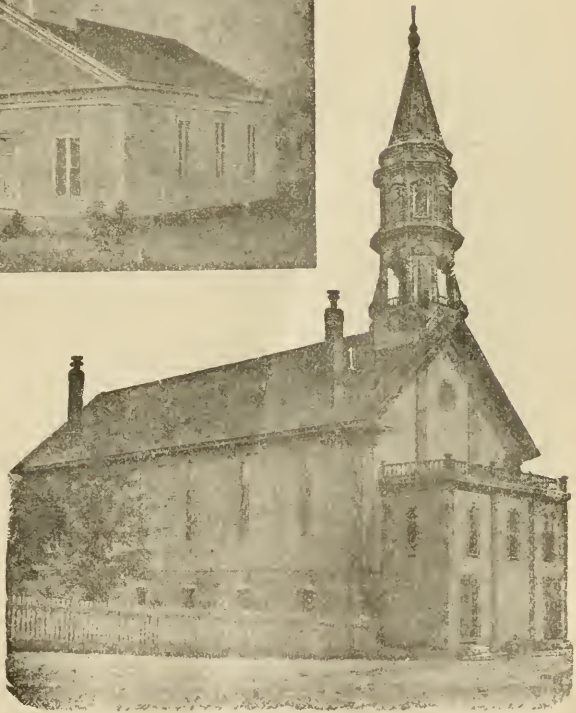
Besides these papers devoted to local matters, a monthly devoted to the Masonic Relief Association was published by W. W. Merrill and The Bee-Keepers' Advance by J. B. Mason & Sons. In the spring of 1892, The Weekly News was established by E. F. Edgecomb, but it run only three months.

Book making has been indulged in by citizens of the village to a limited extent. Mrs. Julia Schayer made the village her residence a portion of the time during the seventies and incorporated a part of her experience here in a book entitled "Tiger Lily". Rev. M. J. Steere, who was once pastor of the Universalist church, was the author of a book called "Footprints Heavenward." In 1890 a History of Poland was published by H. A. and G. W.

Poole which had the peculiarity of being written by Poland men, set up, electrotyped and printed by Poland workmen, in a Poland office and on paper manufactured in the same town. In 1892 Dr. E. F. Bradford published a medical work entitled "A Handbook of Emergencies and Common Ailments," which has had a large sale.

The clergy will be treated in the chapter devoted to the church.





CONGREGATIONAL AND UNIVERSALIST CHURCHES.

## CHAPTER V.

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### ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

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The history of a New England town would be incomplete without a chapter devoted to her churches, and while towns founded in later years have not bestowed the same attention upon religion as those founded by the Pilgrim fathers, nevertheless they still occupy a prominent place in society.

The first regularly organized church in Mechanic Falls was that of the Congregational society. The earlier believers in this particular faith had been members of the church at Poland and the organization in the village of Mechanic Falls was at first a branch of that church. The church was organized by an ecclesiastical council held in the house of John Valentine, June 15, 1845, with the following persons as members: John Valentine, Joseph H. Hall, Sophia Hall, Salmon Hackett, Laurana Hackett, Samuel Chandler, Lowell and Nelson Valentine, Mrs. Pamela Foss and Mrs. Nancy P. Alden. The two branches of the church were under the charge of Rev. Thomas Williams preaching on alternate Sundays at Poland Corner and Mechanic Falls. The first church service was held in the school house on the eastern side of the river, July 12, 1840. The lot on which the present church edifice stands was presented by John Valentine and a vestry was built during the summer of 1841, and dedicated December 30, 1841. On November 2, 1842, the branch became an independent body with Rev. Nathan Cobb as pastor. The church edifice was

completed and dedicated in 1848 and the old vestry removed in 1850. In 1886 the church was remodeled, repaired and a basement vestry added in 1886. Following is a list of the pastors: Nathan Cobb, 1842-1847; Enos Merrill, 1847-1855; William N. Jordan, 1855-1859; Horatio Illsley, 1859-1862; Joseph Kyte, 1862-1864; the pulpit was then supplied by Revs. George W. Campbell, E. T. Bouchers, F. M. Davis, A. C. Herrick, E. S. Jordan, H. Witcher, R. J. Langradge and Profs. Stanley, Hayes and Angell until April 1, 1874, when Rev. F. E. Emrich became pastor and remained until 1882. He was succeeded by Rev. C. A. White from 1882 to 1888; Rev. H. S. Woodrow, 1888 to 1889; then by Rev. F. Newport.

The second church and in some respects the oldest, was the Free Baptist. Rev. Christopher Macy, of this denomination it seems, preached here as early as 1828. In 1847 this society united with the others in building a union church which was sold to the Baptists in 1889. This church has had few regular pastors with long intervals in which there was no preaching at all.

The first Baptist conference was held at Mechanic Falls in the fall of 1855 and preaching was sustained one-fourth of the time by Rev. A. K. P. Small. The church was organized in September 1857, with forty-one members. Following is a list of pastors: A. K. P. Small, D. D., Adam Wilson, D. D., Abner Merrill, A. C. Herrick, L. P. Gurney, R. J. Langradge, J. S. Studley, C. E. Harden and W. H. Clark. Messrs. W. Swett and R. Denning, members of the church, occupied the pulpit at times. R. B. Andrews, Eben Drake, A. B. Dwinal, Joseph Bucknam, S. Woodman, Gilman Thayer and S. U. Hawkes have been deacons. Isaac P. Bumpus, A. B. Dwinal, and J. S. Merrill have been clerks. In 1888 the church was remodelled, repaired, and re-dedicated.

Mechanic Falls was made a station of the Methodist church by the Maine Annual Conference, April 27, 1859, with Rev. J. C. Perry as pastor. Before this time services by this denomination had been held in the Union church, which was partly owned by Methodists, a portion of the time by the pastors in charge of the Poland church and circuit. A church edifice was erected on Main Street and dedicated in 1860. This was burned April 1, 1877.

A new church was soon erected and dedicated in 1880. Following is a list of pastors: Revs. J. C. Perry, 1856, James McMillan, 1860, Kinsman Atkinson, 1861, J. C. Perry, 1862-63, John Woodbury, 1864, William H. Foster, 1865-66, John Gibson, 1867-68, Joseph Hawkes, 1869-70; J. A. Fletcher, 1871; Daniel Waterhouse, 1872-74; W. B. Birtlett, 1875-77; J. H. Trask, 1878; H. Chase, 1879-80; Daniel Church, 1881-83; W. S. Jones, 1885-87; C. F. Cobb, 1888-90; C. E. Springer, 1890; C. F. Parsons, 1891-92; and G. C. Andrews, 1893. The parsonage was built in 1872.

It is recorded that the first Universalist sermon ever preached in Mechanic Falls was by Rev. Zenas Thompson in 1840. A church was organized April 8, 1862, and services held in Curtis Hall. A church was built and dedicated in January 1864. Rev. A. G. Gaines, D. D., was the first pastor and he has been followed by Revs. Zenas Thompson, S. S. Davis, M. J. Steere, C. S. Whitman, W. W. Hooper, W. S. Perkins, R. F. Johonnet, G. G. Hamilton, and F. E. Barton. In 1875, the church was enlarged and a vestry, called Murray Hall built underneath.

The Adventists have held occasional meetings in Mechanic Falls for many years and a yearly campmeeting was held at Pottle Grove for two decades or so, until 1890, when the Androscoggin Camp Meeting Association bought fifteen acres on the Lewiston road, erected buildings and seats where their yearly meetings are now held. A few years ago a church was organized in town, holding their meetings in halls. They have had two pastors,—Rev. J. A. Libby and Rev. Mrs. Jessie Jordan.

A local union of The Womens' Christian Temperance Union was organized in this village, August 2, 1888, with Mrs. S. I. Jewett as president and Miss M. E. Perkins, secretary.

The organization of chapters of the Christian Endeavorers and of the Epworth League took place in 1890.

## CHAPTER VI.

## SOCIETIES.

In the earlier history of the older towns much space is occupied by the church, and it is very evident that theology occupied a prominent place in the minds of men; but in later years this theme seems to be relegated to the background and practical Christianity has come to the front, and as a means of carrying out plans in this direction, so called secret societies have been formed. These societies occupy a prominent place in the modern life of every village, and Mechanic Falls is no exception to the general rule.

The first of these societies to be organized in almost every village was a masonic lodge. On January 21, 1853, a dispensation was granted to George Moore, Daniel W. True, Nathaniel Bray, Augustus Goldermann, George Hathaway, Josiah Carr and Samuel Atwood to open and hold a Freemason's lodge in Mechanic Falls, to be known as Fraternal Lodge. George Moore was first master and the first meeting U. D., was held on January 24, 1853. Fraternal Lodge held nineteen communications but when a charter was granted May 10, 1853, it was to Tyrian Lodge, No. 73, with rank of precedence from January 1, 1853. Following is a list of past masters:

George Moore, D. P. Atwood, Josiah Carr, Augustus Goldermann, Alonzo P. Lamb, C. D. Hackett, J. M. Eveleth, E. G. Hawkes, P. R. Cobb, George W. Sholes, E. F. Ross, D. B. Perry, H. B. King, John Richardson, E. F. Stevens, J. M. Libby, H. N.

Whittle, H. C. Bray, E. F. Edgecomb, J. H. King, F. R. Harmon, H. E. Dennen, and O. H. Guptill.

In 1872, ninth month and twenty-sixth day a dispensation was granted for a chapter of Royal Arch Masons at Mechanic Falls. to be known as Union Royal Arch Chapter. The chapter held its first meeting October 8, 1872, and a charter was granted May 7, 1873, which was constituted October 9, 1873. In 1882 a dispensation was given changing the place of meeting to Norway and the next year that place was continued as the home of the chapter. Following is a list of High Priests while the chapter had its home in Mechanic Falls :

J. M. Eveleth, E. F. Stevens, P. R. Cobb, J. F. Briggs.

In 1891 a dispensation was granted for St. Andrews Royal Arch Chapter and a charter granted July 14, 1893. Following is a list of the High Priests :

P. R. Cobb and C. R. Denning.

In September, 1874, Alvin Reed, Charles H. Dwinal, F. A. Millett, G. L. Reed and D. N. McCann held an informal meeting to see about the propriety of organizing a lodge of Odd Fellows. Their application was granted and Monami Lodge, No. 40, was instituted November 20, 1874. Colfax Lodge, No. 20, Daughters of Rebekah is connected with this lodge. Following is a list of the Past Grands :

Alvin Reed, A. Lewis Gaubert, George L. Reel, Palmer T. Murray, Nathaniel Gammon, Hiram Perkins, David F. Cummings, Charles F. Brown, Herbert A. Gerry, Addison E. True, Albert V. Hathaway, Frank E. Thurlow, E. F. Bradford, T. D. Sale, O. H. Guptill, George Andrews, Charles P. Lawrence, F. Newport, Chas. H. Dwinal, Andrew J. Weston, Frank A. Millett, John W. Pray, Calvin M. Cram, Diman B. Perry, John F. Briggs, Jesse M. Libby, Luther Perkins, John E. Saunders, George W. Robbins, J. K. Denning, W. W. Dennen, Ernest K. Holbrook, Charles Lane, A. B. Clapp, A. V. Edie, F. A. Goldermann.

Orion Encampment of Odd Fellows was instituted November 20, 1878. Following is a list of Past Chief Patriarchs :

George L. Reed, Frank A. Millett, Diman B. Perry, Hiram Perkins, P. T. Murray, Wm. M. Greenleaf, P. D. Herrick, Luther



Perkins, A. J. Weston, A. Lewis Gaubert, Charles Lane, E. A. Thomas, Geo. W. Robbins, S. T. Rowe, F. E. Thurlow, A. V. Hathaway, H. E. Thurston, O. H. Gupstill, A. E. True, W. W. Dennen, L. W. Mason.

St. Elmo Lodge, Knights of Pythias, was instituted at Mechanic Falls, December 18, 1885, called after the famous fortress which once protected and still looks down on the city and bay of Naples. The past chancellors are A. W. Bridge, O. C. Bridge, W. W. Dennen, C. H. Dwinal, W. R. Farris, F. B. Jordan, B. F. Lunt, W. H. Lunt, R. F. Mayberry, F. H. McDonald, W. I. Merrill, D. B. Perry, J. B. Perry, H. S. Rich, A. E. Robinson, H. E. Pettee, F. O. Purington, M. C. B. Prince, J. W. Gookin, George F. Needham.

Charity Assembly, No. 10, Pythian Sisterhood, is connected with this lodge.

Osceola Tribe, Improved Order of Red Men, No. 24, was established in this village, February 13, 1891. Following are the Past Sachems: L. W. Mason, D. B. Perry, H. J. Leeman, James McQuinn, F. C. Chaplin, C. M. Hutchins and D. L. Cousins.

Agassiz Commandery, United Order of the Golden Cross, No. 24, was established 1880.

Androscoggin Lodge of the New England Order of Protection, was established January 23, 1893. The Past Wardens are F. H. McDonald, W. H. Mitchell, A. A. Shorey, John Thomas.

Perhaps as important as any of the organizations of this nature is A. A. Dwinal Post, Grand Army of the Republic, reminding us as it does, of a struggle yet familiar to middle-aged people and to which the nation reverts with pride. The post was named after one of the youngest citizen soldiers of Mechanic Falls and a Lieutenant of the seventeenth Maine Regiment. It was instituted July 18, 1872. The following persons have filled the post of commander:

Josiah Carr, H. A. Sawyer, H. T. Bucknam, Edward Fuller, E. F. Ross, F. R. Harmon, H. B. King, W. H. Poole, W. C. Bridge, C. B. Adams, G. B. Robbins, F. E. Dwinal, A. L. Downs, G. W. Sholes, F. A. Millett, C. N. Burns, Orrin Downs, Joseph Gould, A. V. Edie, D. D. Skinner. Connected with this Post is the A.

A. Dwinal Relief Corps, and A. J. Pettee Camp, No. 60, Sons of Veterans,

In 1887 the post erected a monument in memory of those who fell during the war as the following inscription taken from it will show.

Dedicated May 30, A. D., 1887.

To the memory

Of those comrades who died

During the war

1861-1865,

By A. A. Dwinal

Post, No. 3,

and

Woman's Relief Corps, No. 32.

G. A. R.,

Mechanic Falls, Maine.

In looking over the list of men in the Adjutant General's report accredited to the towns of Minot and Poland, I have picked out, so far as I am able so to do, those who lived at that time within the present limits of the town of Mechanic Falls. If in the list below any names are missing, it is unintentional:

#### FIRST MAINE REGIMENT.

Wellington Dwinal,	Co. B, private,
H. H. Hutchinson,	" " "
Charles E. Harris,	" " "
A. H. Hutchinson,	" " "
Hiram B. King,	Co. A, "
Orrin Dwinal,	" G, "
Hiram P. Bailey,	" " "
Eleazor B. Atwood,	" H, "
Elmer Chipman,	" K, "

#### FOURTH MAINE REGIMENT.

Josiah Carr,	Surgeon.
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## FIFTH MAINE REGIMENT.

William A. Tobie,	Co. K, Captain.
Hamlin T. Bucknam,	" " 1st Lt. promoted to Cap. Sept. 23, 61.
Charles Andrews,	" " Private, missing in action May 3, 63.
John F. Bancroft,	" " "
William A. Campbell,	" " Private,
Charles W. Campbell,	" " "
Augustus A. Dwinal,	" " Sergeant,
Burbank Spiller,	" " 1st Lieutenant,
Almund H. Hutchinson,	" " Private,
Samuel H. Hutchinson,	" " "
Henry H. Hutchinson,	" " "
Charles F. McKenney,	" " Private,
Harrison J. Dwinal,	" " "
Wellington Dwinal,	" " "
Charles Dore,	" " "
Arthur M. Brown,	" " "
William E. Morton,	" E, " transfd. to navy.
William H. Everett,	" C, " died May 14 1853.
Fabian Churchill,	" K, " killed May 3, 1863.
Adelbert Churchill,	" " " killed.

## NINETH MAINE REGIMENT.

Joseph H. Durgin,	Co. B, Private.
Cyrus M. Lord,	" F, "
Ezra Mitchell, Jr.,	" T, "
Robert W. Carr,	" K, "
James F. Gerry,	" B, "
Isaac A. Whittemore,	" C, "
Percival D. Herrick,	" F, "
James N. Nason,	" G, "
Lemuel T. Marshall,	" F, "

## TENTH MAINE REGIMENT.

Lorenzo Mayberry,	Co. C, "
George J. Fuller,	" H, " killed Sept. 17, 1862.
Elmer Chipman,	" K, "

## ELEVENTH MAINE REGIMENT.

Hiram C. Curtis,	Co. F,	“ died July 1, 1862.
Albion A. Drake,	“ “	“
Joseph C. Bray,	“ “	“
Azel W. Drake,	“ H,	“

## TWELFTH MAINE REGIMENT.

Darius Holt,	Co. G,	“
James R. Holt,	“ “	“
Samuel L. Brown,	“ “	“
James S. Small,	“ K,	“

## FOURTEENTH MAINE REGIMENT.

William M. Perkins,	Co. G,	Sergeant.
Lewis J. Morton,	“ “	Private prom. to Sergt. and Lt. Co. B.
Newton E. Stowe,	“ “	Corporal transferred to Co. B.
Charles E. Strout,	“ “	Private.

## FIFTEENTH MAINE REGIMENT.

George P. McCarty,	Co. C,	“
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## SEVENTEENTH MAINE REGIMENT.

Augustus Goldermann,	Co. C,	Captain.
A. M. Churchill,	“ “	Private.
Asa L. Downs,	“ “	Sergeant.
Alexander Campbell,	“ “	Private, died in service.
James L. Fuller,	“ “	“ killed in action.
George F. Perkins,	“ “	“
George F. Sawyer,	“ “	“
Orrin Whittemore,	“ “	“
Otho W. Burnham,	“ “	Lieutenant.
George G. Bridgham,	“ “	Private.
John Noyes,	“ “	“
Andrew J. Pettee,	“ “	“ killed at Gettysburg July 2, 1863.
Tilson Waterman,	“ “	“ transferred to V. R. C.
Josiah Winslow,	“ F,	“

## TWENTY-THIRD MAINE REGIMENT.

Hiram Moore,	Co. D, Lieutenant.
Frank H. Hall,	" D, Corporal.
James L. Dingley,	" D, Private.
Stephen G. Bray,	" G, "
Ezra D. Chandler,	" " "
Lemuel T. Marshall,	" " "
Edwin Woodsum,	" " "
David Woodsum,	" " "

## TWENTY-FIFTH REGIMENT.

Josiah Carr,	Surgeon.
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## TWENTY-SEVENTH MAINE REGIMENT.

William E. Farrar,	unassigned company.
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## TWENTY-NINTH MAINE REGIMENT.

L. F. Tenney,	Co. A, Private.
Dexter D. Skinner,	" " "
Elmer Chipman,	" D, "
Zebedee Cushman,	" G, "

## THIRTIETH MAINE REGIMENT.

Josiah Carr,	Surgeon.
Francis E. Dwinal,	Co. A, 1st Lieutenant.
Ronello C. Dwinal,	" A, Corporal.
Darius Holt,	" A, Private.
Jabez T. Denning,	" " Sergeant.
Edward F. Ross,	" " Private.

## FIRST MAINE VETERANS.

Augustus A. Dwinal,	Co. A.,	Sergt. prom. to Lt. Co. G.
Henry H. Hutchinson,	" "	first Sergeant,

## FIRST BATTALION.

Richard E. Maxwell,	private.
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## FIRST D. C. CAVALRY.

Hiram B. King,	private.
Horace Perkins,	"



SOLDIER'S MONUMENT.



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

## CHAPTER VII.

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### SCHOOLS.

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United States, and especially New England, has prided herself that the basis of her free institutions lay in her public schools. The older towns all made provisions for the maintenance, not only of public schools, but set apart portions of land for the endowment of institutions of higher education. Mechanic Falls as a town by itself was founded so late as to take public schools as a matter that had been established and needing nothing of a special nature; nevertheless the schools of the village as parts of the towns of Minot and Poland have received particular attention and they have been the pride of the village.

The early schools of Mechanic Falls presented the same characteristics as those of other towns. They were the ungraded district schools, where boys and girls between the ages of four and twenty-one congregated during term times. There were two of these district schools, No. 1, established in 1831 on the Minot side of the river and supported by that town and No. 20, on the other side of the river supported by Poland.

Along in the sixties there arose a desire for better schools which culminated on March 22, 1867, in a petition to Justice S. F. Waterman signed by E. G. Hawkes, A. C. Denison, A. T. Denison, O. W. Hawkes, William Childs, J. A. Bucknam, E. M. Thurston, D. S. Perkins and J. S. Merrill to call a meeting which resulted in the formation of a union district comprised of the district No. 1 Minot, and No. 20 Poland. This district was formed March

30, 1867. Rev. A. G. Gaines, D. D., J. M. Eveleth, M. D., Alanson Briggs and A. T. Denison were elected to grade the schools.

In 1871 the need of a new building to accommodate the number and different grades of the scholars in the village was deeply felt, which resulted in the building of the brick school building on Water Street in which until 1883 was held the high school. Nathaniel Cushman, J. S. Gerry, O. B. Dwinal, O. B. Moore and Alanson Briggs, were the building committee. It cost \$8,863 85.

At a special meeting November 26, 1887, the town of Poland abolished the district school system and adopted the town system, thereby terminating the union district, all but paying a debt of \$2,000 00 on the Water Street school house, which was raised at a special meeting held April 7, 1888. This left the Poland side without adequate school buildings. On the annual meeting of March 12, 1888, Poland voted to raise \$5,000 to build a suitable school building at Mechanic Falls. A fine building was erected on Elm Street and completed in season for the fall term of school of that year, at a cost of \$4,942, under charge of W. W. Waterman and A. J. Weston. From 1888 to 1893 the village supported two sets of schools from high to primary. Since the formation of the new town the Elm Street school house has been used for the high school.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### POLITICAL HISTORY.

Mechanic Falls has not had much of a political history in itself. Its political interests in the past lay with the towns of Poland and Minot. About the only thing, political, of a local nature, has been the post office.

The post office was established October 27, 1841. Following is a list of postmasters and the date of their appointment :

Samuel F. Waterman, October 27 1841 ; Jacob Dwinal, July 21, 1845 ; Samuel Carr, May 2, 1849 ; Merrill W. Strout, July 7, 1851 ; Alexander B. Dwinal, February 24, 1853 ; Charles K. Smith, July 2, 1856 ; Samuel F. Waterman, June 26, 1861 ; Oliver B. Dwinal, October 8, 1866 ; Joseph Bucknam, April 8, 1869 ; Jason Hall, July 19, 1869 ; F. E. Dwinal, April 1, 1883 ; Frank A. Millett, February 22, 1887 ; F. E. Dwinal, April 1, 1891.

Within the last decade a large number of the citizens felt the need of greater unity in the village and deplored the fact that it was situated in two towns. The first effort in this direction was made before the legislature of 1889 and after a hard fought battle a charter to incorporate the village was granted, providing the instrument was accepted by a majority of the voters in the village on both sides of the river. The Minot side voted to accept ; but six votes was lacking on the Poland side to pass the measure. This meeting took place February 25, 1890.

The next legislature was petitioned to incorporate the Poland side, which was granted and adopted by the Poland side of the village



February 20, 1891. The corporation was organized with the following officers: A. E. True, C. L. Hackett and S. I. Jewett, assessors; A. W. Butler, clerk; D. B. Waterhouse, collector; James Stanton, Treasurer; E. W. Jordan and Fred C. Chaplin, fire wardens.

This, however did not give universal satisfaction and left Minot side with no organization. A petition to incorporate Minot side in a similar manner as the Poland side drawn up by F. O. Purington, signed by F. A. Merrill and Charles E. Waterman, was advertised but not presented before the legislature. The citizens of both sides unanimously agreed that something better was needed and on petition of F. H. McDonald and one hundred and ten others, a meeting of the citizens was called December 10, 1892, at which A. E. True was chosen chairman and Charles E. Waterman, secretary, to see what action was necessary for the benefit of the village. This meeting elected the following committee to recommend some plan: F. H. McDonald, C. H. Dwinal, E. A. Gammon, S. R. Penney, C. R. Denning, L. W. Mason, A. E. True, A. J. Weston, C. N. Burns, E. W. Jordan, E. F. Bradford and James W. Wayne, to which were afterward added, J. K. Denning and E. K. Holbrook.

At an adjourned meeting held on the 12th of December, the committee reported that the formation of a new town about four miles square was advisable and this report was unanimously accepted. A petitioned was prepared for presentation to the legislature. Negotiations were opened with Minot which resulted in setting off that portion of the proposed town without opposition; but Poland made opposition. A charter, however, for the new town was granted March 22, 1893.

The first town meeting of Mechanic Falls was held March 30, 1893, at which the following officers were elected: A. J. Weston, F. H. McDonald and J. K. Denning, selectmen; F. A. Millett, H. E. Thurston and F. O. Purington, school committee; C. H. Dwinal, clerk and treasurer; J. M. Libby, agent, F. E. Tufts, auditor and C. L. Hackett, W. C. Chipman, A. D Bemis, road commissioners. C. H. Dwinal died October 14, 1893 and J. H. DeCoster was elected clerk and O. B. Dwinal treasurer to fill the vacancy.

The second annual meeting was held March 22, 1894, and the following officers elected: J. H. DeCoster, clerk and treasurer; A. J. Weston, F. H. McDonald and J. K. Denning, selectmen; J. M. Libby, agent; F. E. Tufts, auditor; J. W. Wayne, C. M. Cobb, F. H. McDonald, J. H. King and W. B. Bucknam school committee; M. N. Royal, truant officer; C. L. Hackett, W. C. Chipman and J. H. King, road commissioners; O. H. Guptill, collector.

At an adjourned session of the second annual meeting, held March 24, 1894, the town voted to see what arrangements, if any, could be made with the Poland & Minot Water & Electric Light Co., or the Mechanic Falls Water and Electric Light Co. to put in a system of water works for the village. This action was the outcome of several years agitation. The companies mentioned above had obtained their charters a few years before this action and the first organized as follows: J. M. Libby, president; Luther Perkins treasurer; J. Hanscom, Luther Perkins, A. E. True, N. Q. Pope and J. M. Libby, trustees.

Quite a number of the citizens of Mechanic Falls have held office in the towns of Poland and Minot and in the county of Androscoggin, and so far as I have been able, I have collected their names with the offices they have filled in the following paragraphs:

Senitors: A. C. Denison, 1866, 1867; J. M. Libby, 1891 to 1893.

Representatives to the legislature: Jabez True, 1829; R. B. Dunn, 1831, 1832; David Dunn, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1848, 1851 and 1852; William Stanton, 1855; D. B. Sawyer, 1857; Joseph Bucknam, 1859; William Cousins, 1861; William Moore 1865; A. C. Denison, 1865; J. A. Bucknam, 1867; A. J. Weston, 1869, 1870; Luther Perkins, 1871, 1872; A. T. Denison, 1874, 1875; C. H. Dwinal, 1876; J. M. Libby, 1877; D. B. Perry, 1879; T. B. Swan, 1880, 1881; P. R. Cobb, 1885; C. N. Burns, 1887; F. O. Purington, 1889, 1893.

I. W. Hanson has been clerk of courts for Androscoggin county since January 1, 1879.

J. M. Libby was county attorney from 1887 to 1891.

County commissioners: S. F. Waterman, 1856 to 1859; Luther Perkins, 1876 to 1878.

The following persons have been selectmen of Poland: Jabez True, 1822, 1825; R. B. Dunn, 1830, 1831; S. M. Marble, 1836 to 1838, 1849; David Dunn, 1838; Samuel Cousins, 1844 to 1848; D. W. True, 1849 to 1852; William Cousins, 1851, 1859; W. A. Tobie, 1857, 1862, 1863; Lewis Perkins, 1857; E. W. Filer, 1858; Luther Perkins, 1858 to 1861; A. J. Weston, 1862 to 1869, 1875, 1892; J. S. Gerry, 1868, 1869; W. W. Waterman, 1867, 1872; A. E. True, 1885, 1886; C. E. Stevens, 1887; S. I. Jewett, 1889; E. W. Jordan, 1890, 1891.

The following persons have been clerks of Poland: David Dunn, 1850 to 1857; A. J. Weston, 1862 to 1864; A. C. Denison, 1867, 1868; A. T. Denison, 1869; I. W. Hanson, 1877; Zenas Lane, Jr., 1880 to 1893.

The following persons have been selectmen of Minot: Albert Valentine, 1842; S. F. Waterman, 1845; Jacob Dwinal, 1840; Nathaniel Cushman, 1847, 1848; Joseph Bucknam, 1848, 1849; 1855 to 1858, 1866; Alexander B. Dwinal, 1850, 1859, 1860; Jason Hall, 1853, 1854, 1863; William Moore, 1859; Edward G. Hawkes, 1861; Edmund L. Bailey, 1867 to 1876, 1884, 1888; W. A. Tobie, 1870; O. B. Dwinal, 1875, 1877, 1878; John Richardson, 1880; P. R. Cobb, 1881 to 1883; C. H. Dwinal, 1885, 1886; O. N. Bailey, 1887; F. H. McDonald, 1888 to 1892.

The following persons have been clerks of Minot: Albert Valentine, 1850; Josiah Carr, 1852; R. W. Carr, 1853; J. A. Bucknam, last half of 1853; A. B. Dwinal, 1854 to 1856; O. B. Dwinal, 1857 to 1859; W. B. Bucknam, 1868, 1881; T. B. Swan, 1877 to 1880; C. H. Dwinal, 1882 to 1892.

The following citizens have served as postmasters of the office at Poland Corner, which was prior to 1841, the post office of this village:

Jabez True, Jr., 1819 to 1823; David Dunn, 1838 to 1841, 1845, 1847 to 1849, 1856 to 1857; William Cousins, 1841 to 1845, 1849 to 1853; Freeland Marble, 1845 to 1847.

R. B. Dunn was the first postmaster at East Poland, receiving his commission January 28, 1834, and holding it until June 29, 1836, when the office was discontinued.

## CHAPTER IX.

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PIGEON HILL.

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So far this history has been confined, almost exclusively, to the territory occupied by the village of Mechanic Falls ; but there is a part of the town, known as Pigeon Hill, which has very little in common with the village, being purely an agricultural community. To be sure there is a stretch of farming country up the valley of the Little Androscoggin and another on that eminence known as Mount Hunger, but these sections have been built up by the village and largely dependent upon it. Pigeon Hill was settled before the village and is the only portion of the town which has the flavor of antiquity.

The first settlers on Pigeon Hill were Jabez True and Capt. Day, who came from New Gloucester in 1779 or 1780, and made an opening on what is now known as the A. C. Denison farm and for many years these were the only settlers. From 1790 to 1795 quite a number of settlers came from New Gloucester and Poland Empire.

Jabez True was born in New Gloucester in 1771 and married Hannah Jackson of Poland. This family has perhaps been the most prominent on the hill. Families in those days were large and there was one singular thing about them—the usual number of

children seemed to be twelve and there were twelve in this family. Their children were, Sally, Jabez, John, Elizabeth, Hannah, Moses, Rochsyllania, Miriam, Abajail, Otis, Rebecca and Daniel W. They were an industrious family and several of them gained distinction in the mercantile world. The fine old mansion was built in 1802, which, on the death of Jabez, descended to his son, Daniel W., and after him to his only son, Frank D.

A Captain Ripley cleared the next lot above the True farm, occupied for many years by Alden Chandler and afterwards by S. N. Haskell. Captain Ripley came from Plympton, Massachusetts, and brought with him a negro slave, black Joe, or Joe Prince, as he was called, the only slave ever owned within the limits of the town of Mechanic Falls.

Jacob Strout took up a part of the same lot with Captain Ripley. He married Sally Bray of the Empire and left quite a family of children—Sally, Joshua, Nabby, Jacob, Joseph, Nathaniel, Cyrena, Hobert, Adoniram, Cynthia and William. Mr. Strout met with a painful accident while clearing his land. In fastenining a chain around a log he wished to haul, the oxen became frightened and run to the house and the hook of the chain caught in the fleshy part of the leg and he was dragged after the oxen. He very narrowly escaped death and was lame ever after

Eben Marble took the next lot west to the Ripley farm and came with his bride, Sarah Cash of Cape Elizabeth, in 1790. He lived here until 1812 when he enlisted as a soldier in the war then raging between this country and England, went to Burlington, Vermont, and died there.

Among the prominent families of the section are the Dennings. George and Simeon brothers, came from Salem, Massachusetts, in 1791 or 1792 and took up lots on the hill. George cleared several sections of land and built first a log house on what is now known as the Haley Pulsifer farm, which on being burned, caused him to buy the lot west and to erect building on the farm now owned by his grandson, J. K. Denning. Simeon made several clearings, lived in several places on the hill and in 1830 moved to Shirley, Maine, where he died. Both of these men left large families who have been prominent in this section. George mar-

ried Elenel Rollins of New Gloucester, by whom he had twelve children as follows: Samuel, Stephen, Hannah, Ruth, Ruth 2d, Basheby, George, Job, Moses, Rhoda, James and Jacob. Simeon Denning married Rebecca Chickering and had eleven children: Simeon, Peter, Frederic, John, Levi, Lyford, Elena, Lydia, Joseph, Lois and Otis.

Among the earlier settlers was Dr. Peter Brooks, "an Indian doctor", who came from Plympton, Massachusetts, and has the distinction of building the first frame house within the present town of Mechanic Falls. It is said he came by his death from inhaling poison from the fangs of rattlesnakes, which he used to get from Rattlesnake Mountain in Raymond, during the winter season, for the oil which he used in his practice.

John Cousins of Wells, came to the hill in 1795. He married for his first wife Lucy Hatch and for his second Sarah Cushman of Hebron. He purchased the Jabez True opening. His family consisted of fourteen as follows: Samuel, William, Sarah, Eliza, Lucy, Thomas, Susan, Abigail, Humphery, Mary J., Adaline, Harriet, Jacob T., and James D.

Alden Chandler came from Plympton, Massachusetts, in 1800. By his first wife, Priscilla Cushman of Hebron, he had ten children: Priscilla, Harvey, Alvin, Josiah, Lydia, Christania, Benjamin F., Gaius, Jacob and Rachel T. His second wife was Hepzebah Coolidge of Livermore.

Nathaniel Bray come to this locality from the Empire in 1818 and Daniel Bray, his brother, in 1820. Many of their descendents live here and a section of the town is called the Bray District in their honor. They left five children each. Nathaniel married Deborah Keen and their children were: Mary, Xoa, Stephen, James and Eliphalet. Daniel married Xoa Keene and their children were: George W., Sullivan A., Emiline, Daniel J. and Jefferson.

The business of the hill has been agriculture, but in early days (1820) Reuben B. Dunn kept a store here, Hiram Hilburn did blacksmithing and Joseph Perkins made earthen pans.



## CHAPTER X.

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### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

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LUTHER PERKINS was the son of Oliver and Sarah (Elmes) Perkins and was born at Oxford, Maine, May 9, 1817. He was educated at the common schools. He was married March 2, 1841 to Mary Lewis Waite, youngest daughter of Jonathan Waite of Poland, and moved to West Poland, where he lived until 1888 when he moved to Mechanic Falls. He served as selectman of Poland three years, represented the town in the legislature in 1871-2 and was county commissioner in 1876-7 and 8. He was a member of Tyrian Lodge of Masons, Union Royal Arch Chapter and Lewiston Commandary, Knight Templars; Monami Lodge and Orion Encampment, Odd Fellows and Colfax Lodge D. of R.; Lake Side Grange; St. Elmo Lodge, K. of P.; and Osceola Tribe of Red Men.

ADNA CURTIS DENISON, son of Isaac and Electra (Newell) Denison, was born in Burke, Vermont, November 15, 1815. The Denison family can trace their ancestry in England back to 1165. The American Denisons are descendents of William and Margeret Denison, who came to this country in the ship *Lion* during the year 1631. The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools and at 15 became a clerk in the store of Morrill & Denison. In 1842 he opened a store at Norway, Maine, in connection with



E. W. Filer and Clark W. True, known as A. C. Denison & Co. They did a large trade in general merchandise up and down the Androscoggin valley, supplying contractors of the Grand Trunk Railroad then in process of construction. They had branch stores at Auburn, South Paris and Bethel, Maine, and Gorham, Northumberland and North Stratford, New Hampshire. He continued in this business until 1853. In the mean time, in connection with Dr. Asa Danforth, he built the first paper mill in the state of Maine at Norway. In 1851 he begun the manufacture of paper at Mechanic Falls. Mr. Denison married Hannah, daughter of Thomas and Mary True, September 13, 1838, and who died March 23, 1881. They had two children, Adna T. and Fannie M. The latter married Calvin M. Cram. Both were connected with their father in business. Mr. Denison was a Universalist in religion, a Republican in politics and has served in both branches of the legislature. His son has also served two terms in the legislature. Mr. Denison may well be called the father of the paper industry of Maine and the builder of Mechanic Falls.

JOSIAH APPLETON BUCKNAM, son of Calvin and Zilpha (Barrows) Bucknam, was born at Hebron, Maine, March 21, 1821. He was educated at the common schools and Hebron Academy. He began life by working on a farm summers and teaching school winters. In May 1843 he began business as a pedler and in the fall of the same year went into trade with his brother at West Minot, under the firm name of J. & J. A. Bucknam. In 1847 they moved to Mechanic Falls. In 1843 they had begun the manufacture of men's cowhide and women's kid boots at West Minot which business was also moved to Mechanic Falls and continued until 1850. In 1852 Joseph retired and his brother introduced the custom clothing department the same year and two year's later the sale work department. In 1862 Francis Cobb became partner and remained in the business until 1869; in 1864 H. L. Jones was admitted, C. H. Dminal, Joseph and W. B. Bucknam in 1869; in 1871 Mr. Jones retired and E. A. Gammon was admitted; in 1876 Messrs. Bucknam and Gammon bought out the other partners. Mr. Bucknam married Nancy Judson Glover, who died May 19, 1886, and

had three sons by her, Judson J., Edward H. C., who died August 13, 1891, and Charles W. He was a Universalist in religion and a Republican in politics. He has been town clerk and treasurer of Minot and has represented the town in the legislature, and was a writer on matters of local history. He died March 5, 1894.

CAPTAIN JACOB DWINAL, moved to Mechanic Falls about 1836 and was until his death, in 1851, at the age of 58, a very successful business man. He left nine children, several of whom have been important factors in the upbuilding of Mechanic Falls. Oliver B., Charles H. and W. C. have been successful merchants and the former was connected with the first paper mill in town, has been a large real estate dealer, was postmaster and has held important positions in the towns of Minot and Mechanic Falls. Charles H. was employed for many years in the auditor's office in Washington, was a member of the firm of J. A. Bucknam & Co. and O. B. & C. H. Dwinal, was clerk and treasurer of the towns of Minot and Mechanic Falls and represented the former in the legislature. He died October 13, 1893. Winfield C. was a very successful business man, was one of the promoters and proprietors of Maple Grove Cemetery, and dying in 1879, was the first person buried in it. Lieutenant F. E. Dwinal served in the army and has been postmaster at Mechanic Falls for eight years. In January 1894, Fred E. and Winfield C., sons of C. H. Dwinal, succeeded to the firm of O. B. & C. H. Dwinal.

ORINGTON W. HAWKES, son of Jonathan G. and Polly (Cushman) Hawkes, was born at Minot, November 17, 1824 and has been a successful hardware dealer of Mechanic Falls, since 1865; William Whitney has been associated with him since 1872 and S. U. Hawkes, his brother, was a member of the firm at one time. Mr. Hawkes married for his first wife Annie A. K. Hall by whom he had five children. She died in 1872. His second wife was Mary Ellen, daughter of Cyrus S. Packard of West Auburn.

DIMON B. PERRY, son of David B. and Betsey (Curtis) Perry, has been closely identified with the business interests of Mechanic Falls since 1861. In 1892 he removed to Texas. He has represented the towns of Minot and Poland in the legislature.

PRESCOTT R. COBB is the son of William Cobb, Jr., who entered the hotel business at Mechanic Falls in 1847. Mr. Cobb succeeded his father in this business, has been selectman of Minot and represented her in the legislature.

JAMES H. DECOSTER is a native of Buckfield and the son of Henry and Abigail (Irish) DeCoster. In 1865 he was appointed postmaster at Buckfield and continued until 1877. He moved to Mechanic Falls in 1880. He has been secretary of the Mason's Mutual Relief Association since 1886.

H. N. DAVID DUNN was born in Cornish, Maine, in 1811, read law with John Fairfield, Saco, was admitted to the bar in 1833 and settled in Poland, where he resided until his death, February 17, 1894, although for a number of years he had a law office in Mechanic Falls. He represented Poland in the legislature from 1841 to 1844, was speaker the last two years, and was a member of the senate in 1845. While speaker of the house he became acting governor by the election of Governor Fairfield to the United States Senate and the death of the acting governor, Edward Kavanaugh. From 1857 to 1861 he was in the post office department in Washington.

ANDREW J. WESTON was born in Cumberland, Maine, April 17, 1830. He worked as a carpenter until 1856, when he began mercantile life at Poland Corner and continued in this business two years. He then bought a farm on White Oak Hill, where he resided until 1873 when he moved to Mechanic Falls to engage in the carpenter business. He has served the town of Poland as clerk, selectman and representative to the legislature; he was the first selectman of Mechanic Falls also. He has been twice married, his first wife being Laura S. Jackson and his second Harriet E. Bailey.

WILLIAM WALLACE WATERMAN, son of Daniel Waterman, was born September 19, 1824, and was one of the earlier school teachers and business men of Mechanic Falls. In 1849 he married the oldest daughter of Captain Jacob Dwinal. In 1857 he went to Minnesota and engaged in the real estate business. He served Anoka county in that state as auditor and commissioner. He was also connected with the treasury department in Washington for several years. In 1866 he returned and cut up his farm into streets and lots.

HON. JESSE M. LIBBY was born in Danville, March 23, 1846 and was educated in the public schools of Poland, Nichols Latin School and Bates College. In 1871 and '72 he was principal of the Eastport High School. In 1874 he was admitted to the Androscoggin Bar and has since practised law in Mechanic Falls. He has served in both branches of the legislature and has been county attorney. In December 1871 he married Kittie Perkins.

FRANCIS O. PURINGTON, ESQ., was born at Embden, Maine, August 16, 1852, and graduated at Bowdoin College in 1880. He taught School at Topsham one year and at Mechanic Falls three. In 1884 he was admitted to the Androscoggin Bar and has since practised in Mechanic Falls. He represented Minot in the legislatures of 1890 and '92 and was largely instrumental in obtaining the charter for the new town. He is interested in antiquities and a member of the Maine Historical Society.

J. W. PENNEY is a native of New Gloucester and began life as a blacksmith. For many years he had charge of the repairs for A. C. Denison & Co. In 1875 he built a machine shop to make scroll saws of his invention; in 1880 he built the large shop on Maple St. for the manufacture of steam engines and paper making machinery. In 1886 his sons, Almont R. and Samuel R. were admitted to the firm. Mr. Penney is a graceful writer as well as an expert machinist.

MRS. LOUISE BARNS MARBLE WOODMAN was one of, if not the first school teacher in Mechanic Falls. She taught school here when there was but one house in the village and when there was no bridge across the river. She uses to take her scholars in a boat and cross the river in the morning and return with them at night. She was born on Pigeon Hill and lived in Poland.

F. H. McDONALD was born at Standish, Maine, in 1857 and educated at the public schools and Westbrook Seminary. He began life as a school teacher, has taught 22 terms and served his native town as school supervisor. For many years he has been a prominent business man of Mechanic Falls and served the town of Minot as school supervisor and selectman. The idea of making a new town out of the village of Mechanic Falls originated with Mr.

McDonald and he probably did more for its formation than any other man. He was elected a member of the first board of selectmen. He is a Democrat in politics and has been the candidate of his party for both branches of the legislature.

## APPENDIX.

The statistics of Agassiz Commandery, No. 285, United Order of the Golden Cross did not reach me in time to be incorporated in the chapter on societies. The commandery was instituted July 8, 1883, by D. G. C. Tristram Hersey of Auburn. Following is a list of the Past Noble Commanders: John D. Holt, Charles E. Stoddard, Caroline E. Evans, O. R. Tibbetts, E. C. Heath, F. E. Harmon, E. W. Jordan, D. H. Walker, C. M. Sawyer, Fred Chaplin, A. B. Walker, Ella R. Chaplin, A. L. Rounds, Flora R. Thurston, May L. Walker and C. D. Herrick.















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